

3,000 jobs created in one year by 'resilient' UK space sector

Employment in the UK space sector hit 46,995 in 2020, up from 44,040 in 2019: an increase of 2,955 (6.7%).

Sector income increased in nominal terms from £16.4 billion to £16.5 billion, with exports counting for around a third (32%) of this total. Space manufacturing, including satellites, spacecraft, launch vehicles and scientific instruments, grew the most in real terms; up by £23 million to £2.27 billion.

In line with the UK Government's commitment to increasing public and private R&D spending, investment in research and development saw a 19% boost to £836 million.

Levelling up the space sector is a key priority for the UK Space Agency and there are now 1,293 space organisations located across the UK, with Scotland responsible for around one fifth of the entire UK space workforce. Employment in the sector grew from 7,703 to 8,440 in Scotland, from 415 to 1,109 in Wales, and from 113 to 431 in Northern Ireland.

Spaceports in Scotland, Wales and England are expected to generate more jobs in the coming years, alongside the growth of regional space clusters, international investment, and emerging technologies such as in-space manufacturing and debris removal, supported by the National Space Strategy.

Science Minister George Freeman said:

The £16.5 billion space sector is a major contributor to a strong and secure UK economy, and it's promising to see it generate thousands of new high-skilled jobs in the face of global economic headwinds.

We're backing this innovative and resilient industry through the largest ever increase to R&D spending, which includes a significant uplift to the UK Space Agency's budget, and the delivery of the UK's first National Space Strategy.

As we support new SpaceTech clusters from Spaceports in Cornwall and Scotland to satellite manufacturing and robotics from Glasgow to Warwick to Stevenage, this will help level-up the UK. Looking ahead to the first satellite launches from the UK this year, this is an exciting time for this high growth sector up and down the country.

The figures published today come from the 'Size and Health of the UK Space

Industry 2021' survey, conducted by BryceTech on behalf of the UK Space Agency.

Confidence in the face of global challenges

When adjusted for inflation, the total income of the sector dropped marginally in real terms by 1.7% in 2020, compared to a 9.9% drop in the wider UK economy over the same period, caused predominantly by the Covid-19 pandemic. Fewer live sports broadcasts had a negative impact on satellite broadcasting services, while travel restrictions temporarily reduced demand for mobile satellite services from maritime companies and airlines.

Despite these challenges, confidence within the sector remains high, with more than three-quarters (79%) of organisations predicting a rise in income over the next three years, 74% expecting further increases in employment, and more than half (53%) expecting growth in space exports.

Dr Paul Bate, CEO of the UK Space Agency, said:

The UK space sector has shown remarkable resilience in the face of challenges presented by the pandemic, thanks to the incredible efforts of all those within it, and its future is a bright and ambitious one.

We continue to work closely with partners across the industry, with academia and our colleagues across government to catalyse further investment, deliver new space capabilities and missions, and champion space for the good of humanity. This will help us overcome challenges, drive forward the pace of innovation and bring tangible benefits to people and businesses.

Catalysing investment

The survey also analysed UK space investments over the past decade, finding that 145 unique investors in 38 companies invested nearly £6 billion across 90 investment deals, between 2012 and 2021.

There has been a recent increase in this activity with the launch of the Seraphim Space Investment Trust in 2021, and a newly announced \$50 million space and tech fund from US venture capital firm, Type One. Following the success of its funding round for Wales-based Space Forge last year, Type One has opened a UK office to manage ongoing investment and support early-stage space companies in the UK and Europe.

Will Whitehorn, President of UKspace, said:

UKspace is delighted to see that, despite the many issues faced by all industries over the last two years, opportunities within the

space sector have continued to grow.

We see the evidence within our membership of exciting new enterprises, significant collaborations and the development of projects which provide benefits across society.

The space sector has the ability to improve the lives of people across the globe, and this report demonstrates that the UK is at the forefront of that movement.

Kevin Craven, Chief Executive of ADS, said:

This report highlights the significant and important contribution the space sector makes to the UK.

The UK possesses major strengths and capabilities, including in satellite technology and manufacturing, which, underpinned by the National Space Strategy and the Defence Space Strategy, supports the sector's bright, long-term future.

2022 will be an exciting year for space and advancing projects, such as the UK's first spaceports, will enable and support increased regional prosperity and employment in this flourishing sector.

Howard Nye FRAeS, President of the Royal Aeronautical Society, said:

Given modern-day societies' dependence on space infrastructure and services, both in the civil and defence domains, and the high return to the UK economy from government investment in space technology and space systems, this report provides strong evidence of the UK's continuing determination to remain a key player both as the fourth largest contributor to the European Space Agency, as well as in partnership with its allies around the world.

The report also provides clear evidence of the UK Government's call for levelling up employment opportunities across the UK, which must continue through encouraging young people to enter the space domain.

[PM statement: 12 April 2022](#)

Today I have received a fixed penalty notice from the Metropolitan Police

relating to an event in Downing Street on 19th June 2020, and let me say immediately that I have paid the fine and I once again offer a full apology.

And in a spirit of openness and humility, I want to be completely clear about what happened on that date.

My day began shortly after 7am, and I chaired eight meetings in No10, including the Cabinet Committee deciding Covid strategy, I visited a school in Hemel Hempstead, which took me out of Downing Street for over four hours.

And amongst all these engagements, on a day that happened to be my birthday, there was a brief gathering in the Cabinet Room shortly after 2pm, lasting for less than 10 minutes, during which people I work with kindly passed on their good wishes.

And I have to say in all frankness, at the time, it did not occur to me that this might have been a breach of the rules.

But of course the police have found otherwise and I fully respect the outcome of their investigation.

I understand the anger that many will feel that I myself fell short when it came to observing the very rules which the Government I lead had introduced to protect the public, and I accept in all sincerity that people had a right to expect better.

Now I feel an even greater sense of obligation to deliver on the priorities of the British people:

strengthening our economy,

creating jobs and opportunities,

levelling up the whole United Kingdom,

now, of course, ensuring that Putin fails in Ukraine, and easing the burden imposed on hard-working families caused by higher energy prices.

I will take forward that task with due humility, but with maximum determination to fulfil my duty and do what is best for the country I serve.

PM call with President Biden: 12 April 2022

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The Prime Minister updated President Biden on his recent visit to Kyiv, and said he had been humbled by President Zelenskyy's strength and resolve.

The leaders discussed the need to accelerate assistance to Ukraine, including bolstering military and economic support, as the Ukrainian forces prepare for another Russian onslaught in the east of the country.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to the US' colossal military contribution to Ukraine, and updated on the UK's new package of support, including anti-ship missiles and military vehicles, which would arrive in the coming days and weeks.

Both leaders were clear that Putin would never be able to hold down the spirit of the Ukrainian people, despite his monstrous attempts.

The Prime Minister said that a long-term commitment to Ukraine was needed from the international community to ensure the Ukrainian people's vision for their country's freedom could be realised again, and the leaders discussed how the US and UK could work together with allies to achieve that.

The pair also agreed to continue joint efforts to ratchet up the economic pressure on Putin and decisively end Western reliance on Russian oil and gas.

The Prime Minister also expressed his sympathies to President Biden and the American people following the attack in New York City this morning. Both leaders agreed to stay in touch in the coming weeks.

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Call for project bids 2022: open societies, climate change and accessible education in Panama



The deadline for proposals is 11:59pm (Panama time) on 15 May 2022.

The British Embassy in Panama City is now accepting proposals for projects between April 2022 and March 2023. We encourage civil society, non-profit and multilateral organisations to submit proposals that directly support the following thematic areas:

1. Open societies
 - a. Open data and access to information
 - b. Democracy
 - c. Human rights (LGBT+, afrodescendants, indigenous communities, resocialisation strategies)
 - d. Media freedom

2. Climate change

- a. Waste management and recycling
- b. Implementation of nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) and COP26 commitments, nature-based solutions
- c. Energy transition, clean growth, tackling deforestation
- d. Links between climate change and academia
- e. Adaptation in indigenous communities

3. Accessible education

- a. Bilingualism
- b. Creative industries development, cultural, software, artificial intelligence (AI), IoT
- c. Technologies for virtual learning
- d. STEM education

Funding terms

- projects cannot last longer than 9 months
- the total cost of a project should be between \$10,000 and \$30,000 USD (or the equivalent in other currencies). Proposals must be submitted in the currency in which the organisation operates
- administration costs for delivering a project must not exceed 10% of the total project budget
- payments to implementing partners during the project will be made in arrears (i.e. for actual costs incurred by the implementing partner after project activities take place). The embassy cannot accept proposals that include advance payments
- activities can only start once there is an agreement officially in place with the British embassy
- the call for proposals is not intended for individuals, for-profit or government organisations
- we cannot consider projects that include the purchase of equipment and IT devices
- ensure projects have clear, tangible, and achievable deliverables within the funding period
- the embassy will conduct a Due Diligence Assessment (DDA) to determine if a selected implementing partner has the capacity and capability to manage the funds and deliver project objectives. The embassy will save the right to decide whether it should maintain or reject a project depending on DDA outcomes
- project proposals must be aligned with the [FCDO's priorities](#) and thematic areas above

- project proposals should identify the key beneficiaries and reflect the change they will bring
- project proposals should state the issues they will address and why the UK should fund them
- projects must qualify as Official Development Assistance (ODA). ODA is a term created by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). ODA projects have, as a primary objective, the promotion of economic development and welfare in developing countries. Read more about [how the UK government uses ODA](#)

Milestones

The embassy will hold a Q&A session via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 21 April 2022 at 11am (Panama time) to provide information about the bidding process and funding objectives.

[Access the session](#)

Date	Activity
21 April 2022 (11am Panama time)	Q&A session
15 May 2022 (11:59pm Panama time)	Call for bids closes
December 2022	85% progress on projects
February 2023	100% progress on projects

Submission:

To submit a proposal, email the following documents to Panama.Prosperty@fcdo.gov.uk with the subject line 'Organisation name: Project title':

1. [Project Proposal Form for projects up to USD 15,000](#) (ODT, 65 KB)
2. [Project Proposal Form for projects over USD 15,000](#) (ODT, 73.5 KB)
3. [Activity Based Budget Form](#) (ODS, 9.66 KB)
4. [Climate change and inclusion statement](#) (ODT, 5.73 KB)

Ensure the submitted documents have the organisation name at the beginning of the file name (e.g. Organisation Name – Project Proposal Form).

You must include a point of contact in the body of the email. All documents must be submitted in English.

Both successful and rejected bids will receive notice in due course. Implementing partners will be expected to sign a standard grant agreement with the embassy. The terms are non-negotiable. All implementers must also commit to a consistent financial management, regular monitoring and reporting back when requested; including discussing and updating any changes to the activity based budget with the assigned projects officer.

About the International Programme Fund (IPF)

The International Programme Fund (IPF) of the United Kingdom was launched in 2015 as a responsive, agile fund to support the strategic objectives of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The IPF supports adaptive, short-term projects which also influence local policies and create networks that open opportunities for further engagement and diplomacy.

Projects must qualify as Official Development Assistance (ODA). ODA is a term created by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. ODA projects have, as a primary objective, the promotion of economic development and welfare, while ensuring gender equality, inclusion, and compliance with Paris Agreement objectives. Read more about [how the UK Government uses ODA](#).

The Panama Prosperity mailbox will only receive proposal applications. You can email Anibal.Castillo@fcdo.gov.uk if you have general inquiries.

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Last updated 29 April 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 29 April 2022

Change of date for submissions

2. 12 April 2022

Date for proposals' deadline

3. 12 April 2022

Added translation

[Colombia's experience shows the importance of holistic and inclusive approaches to sustaining peace](#)

My thanks to Special Representative Ruiz Massieu for your detailed briefing and insights.

I would like, once again, to extend a particularly warm welcome to President Duque and thank him also for his very detailed remarks and insights on the situation in Colombia. Your Excellency, Mr President, your presence here today testifies to the importance you place on the role of the UN, and the Security Council, in supporting Colombia on its journey towards lasting and

sustainable peace.

It has been a privilege for the UK to work alongside Colombia, and I offer my congratulations to you Mr President, to the parties, and to the Colombian people, for the progress that has been achieved, just over five years since the signing of the peace agreement. We recognise the investment the Government has made during this time to support the reintegration of former combatants into civilian life.

Colombia serves as an important example, that an enduring resolution of differences is only possible through peaceful dialogue.

During the past quarter, as we have heard again today, we have continued to see some significant progress in the implementation of the Peace Accord.

As the report notes, this year is a real turning point for the transitional justice system, and its three components continue to advance in their crucial work.

We look forward to seeing the final report from the Truth Commission in June, and the first sentences being handed down by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. We recognise the fundamental importance, as part of this process, of perpetrators acknowledging their crimes before the victims themselves. And we share the Secretary-General's confidence in the fortitude Colombians will continue to show, as they confront a painful past in order to move towards healing and reconciliation.

Notwithstanding the important progress made, our concerns remain for groups that continue to be disproportionately affected by violence, displacement and confinement. In this regard, as we've heard from SRSB Massieu today, we continue to be alarmed by the increase in violent incidents and insecurity in several areas, which has claimed the lives of former combatants, social and environmental leaders, human rights defenders, women leaders and those from indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

In my capacity as the UK's Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, I saw directly when I engaged with the representatives of these groups in a virtual visit in late 2020, the powerful insights they provided in this respect.

I am sure I speak for all colleagues when we say we were shocked and saddened by the murder of Jorge Santofimio in Putumayo. His commitment to environmental protection and peace had made him a real example of the benefits that come through successful reintegration.

To address this violence, we urge the Government to continue to expand its efforts to provide adequate protection and security, improve state presence in conflict-affected areas, as we've heard today, and strengthen the institutions that can investigate and prosecute those responsible for these crimes.

While challenges to full implementation remain, as we heard from His Excellency President Duque, there has been progress. The election of 16

victims into special 'peace seats' in Colombia's House of Representatives really does represent a historic step forward. It presents an opportunity to widen the democratic participation of victims and the communities most affected by conflict. We also welcome the restorative justice mechanisms that have been introduced.

As Colombia looks ahead to the Presidential elections next month, we again call on all political stakeholders to ensure that these elections will be peaceful and inclusive, and that elected parties maintain their commitment to the full implementation of the peace agreement.

In conclusion, Colombia's experience shows us the importance of holistic and inclusive approaches to building and sustaining peace, as well as the real value of engaging the UN's full peacebuilding architecture, including the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund to catalyse international support.

For our part, the UK remains fully committed to supporting the Peace Process in Colombia, as all parties continue on their path to lasting peace. We will continue to look to consolidate, to strengthen and to build upon the gains achieved thus far.